

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 18-20, 22-25, 27-30, 32 and 36-40, and amend claims 2, 11, 21, 26, 31, 33 and 35 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion, wherein the material is attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a door of the vehicle, said material being equipped above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the vehicle, said material being made of a foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and said material being able to restrain noise.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material is formed to make no contact with ~~a door the body~~ panel while the door is closed.

Appn. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Claim 3 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions on the surface thereof.

Claim 4 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 5 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 4, further comprising at least one of a particulate powder or a fibrous material disposed within the hollow part.

Claim 6 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 2, wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions on the surface thereof.

Claim 7 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 2, wherein said

Appn. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2005

material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 8 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 3, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 9 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's power portion as claimed in claim 6, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 10 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion, wherein the material is attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a door of the vehicle, said material being equipped above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the vehicle, said material comprising a sound absorption layer made of a foam having a specific gravity of 0.05-0.4, and a noise insulation layer having a specific gravity of 0.4 or more, and said material being able to restrain noise.

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 10, wherein said material is formed to make no contact with ~~a door~~ the body panel while the door is closed.

Claim 12 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 11, wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions on the surface thereof.

Claim 13 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 10, wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions on the surface thereof.

Claim 14 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 13, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 15 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 12, wherein said

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 16 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 11, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claim 17 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 10, wherein said material comprises a hollow part along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claims 18-20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 20, which is attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a vehicle door,

5. said material being provided above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and which carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the vehicle, and

Appn. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

10 said material comprising a foam having a specific gravity of
about 0.05-0.4, and said material restraining penetration of
noise into and out of the vehicle,

wherein said material is formed to be spaced from and to
make no contact with a body panel of the vehicle when the door is
closed,

15 wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions
on an outer surface thereof, and

wherein at least some of said plurality of protrusions face
said body panel of the vehicle.

Claim 22-25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material
for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 21,

wherein said material is elongated and comprises a hollow
part extending along the longitudinal direction thereof.

Claims 27-30 (Cancelled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material
for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 30, which is

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

5 attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a vehicle door,

said material being provided above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and which carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the
10 vehicle, and

said material comprising a foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle,

wherein said material comprises a sound absorption layer made of said foam having a specific qravity of about 0.05-0.4, and a noise insulation layer having specific gravity of about 0.4 or more, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle,

wherein said material is formed to be spaced from and to make no contact with a body panel of the vehicle when the door is closed,

wherein said material comprises a plurality of protrusions on an outer surface thereof, and

wherein at least some of said plurality of protrusions face said body panel of the vehicle.

Appn. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Claim 32 (Cancelled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended)). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 20, which is attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a vehicle door,

5 said material being provided above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and which carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the vehicle, and

10 said material comprising a foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle,

15 wherein said material comprises a sound absorption layer made of said foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and a noise insulation layer having specific gravity of about 0.4 or more, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle, and

wherein said noise insulation layer comprises a plurality of noise insulation members extending along the longitudinal direction of said material.

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Claim 34 (Original). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 33, wherein said noise insulation layer is covered by said noise absorption layer.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended). A sound-absorbing material for a vehicle's lower portion as claimed in claim 20, which is attached to a bottom edge of a periphery of a lower portion of a vehicle door,

said material being provided above a seal member which makes a resilient contact with a body panel of the vehicle and which carries out a seal between the inside and the outside of the vehicle, and

said material comprising a foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle,

wherein said material comprises a sound absorption layer made of said foam having a specific gravity of about 0.05-0.4, and a noise insulation layer having specific gravity of about 0.4 or more, and said material restraining penetration of noise into and out of the vehicle, and

wherein said noise insulation layer is covered by said noise absorption layer.

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NO. 6052 P. 11

Appln. No. 10/749,667
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

Claims 36-40 (Cancelled).

-11-